

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. WRU-01-5-156 (EEP-95-3)
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ORDER GRANTING WAIVER

(Issued February 16, 2001)

On February 2, 2001, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a request for limited waiver of 199 IAC 35.6(4)"a"(2) for the years 2000 and 2001. This rule provides that an energy efficiency plan modification must be filed in the event expenditures for a customer class vary from the budgeted amount by more than 10 percent. MidAmerican asks the rule be waived only for residential class spending for the years 2000 and 2001. Waiver of the rule would allow MidAmerican to exceed budgeted energy efficiency spending for the residential class for these two years by more than 10 percent. MidAmerican in its request stated it consulted with the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice (Consumer Advocate) and Consumer Advocate advised it had no objection.

In support of its request, MidAmerican said it began educating customers about rising natural gas prices in June 2000. As a result, customer requests for energy efficiency audits increased. Participation in MidAmerican's residential New Homes construction program also increased. MidAmerican does not want to curtail programs to meet budget projections, but believes that future spending cannot be

predicted accurately. MidAmerican states grant of the waiver will allow MidAmerican energy efficiency personnel to focus their time and resources on fulfilling customer requests for program information and participation, rather than on preparing a plan modification filing.

The Board will grant the waiver request. Energy efficiency programs offer customers an opportunity to reduce their energy bills. The importance of energy efficiency becomes more apparent to customers during periods of volatile energy costs and the opportunity to significantly increase energy efficiency participation should not be lost. Granting the waiver will accommodate the increased participation levels that have recently occurred. By year-end, future participation and budget levels should be able to be more accurately predicted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

The request for waiver filed by MidAmerican Energy Company on February 2, 2001, is granted.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper /s/ Diane Munns
Acting Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 16th day of February, 2001.